

and in my estimation certainly is the major school problem of the whole state in spite of all of the attention we get to state aid to schools which basically when we get down to it is property tax relief. If we are talking education, here is an educational problem. I would like to remind some of the people listening here that I tried to get a committee to come to Omaha and look at some of these problems. They refused to come up to Omaha. Senator Syas is one of those on that committee that refused to do this. Now we have to have Uncle Sam come in here with a federal jurisdiction to help us out and solve our problem. I would just like to say that this basically sure isn't going to solve much, but I think that Senator Chambers feels that it is important and that we ought to give some consideration. I think that some of the people will vote in this body throwing Senator Chambers a bone on a minor operation when they don't have the guts to give a meaningful vote on reorganizing the schools as they ought to be reorganized in Douglas County which even a district court judge said that the statutes are not now as they should be considering that Omaha was created as a separate school district as far back as 1890 which we have flagrantly broken and prostituted in this body. So now we have a situation where we have neighbor against neighbor, four separate districts within the city and this isn't going to solve the problem. We have got children in schools in Omaha who are 2 and 3 years behind in reading. This is not accidental it is because the power structure mandates it and allows it and dictates it and it is going to continue. Because the leadership of the city of Omaha does not have the moral fiber to stand up and do what is right for children. Basically they are selfish they are interested in serving their own interests and they could care what the hell happens to the kids in the ghetto schools. If I am wrong, let the Omaha school district publish the report of the test scores in the ghetto schools and you will find out who is right and who is wrong. You can ask the Federal draft agency what the test scores were like for the young black, when they were drafted. What their rate of rejection was compared to the white race. Five times as great. So here we are going to get down to talking about a little band-aid on a major problem and when a major piece of legislation is introduced to this body that would really remedy the situation the book is closed within three minutes, following two hours of testimony. That shows the interest in solving the Omaha school problem.

SPEAKER: The Senator from south Omaha, Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, Senator Syas is long waiting for these words and on the second day of the session I can see where Senator Syas and I part our ways as normal. I ride with Bernie but I'm going to vote with Ernie. That is because of the energy crisis and the savings of 60¢ a gallon gas. I've had this bill long before Senator Chambers

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(start belt #13)

ever came to this legislature. Two sessions ago I just finally gave up with it and said if he is more of a vigorous fighter and one who can really get up and try to put the bill across. I said to Senator Syas as we were coming down today, and we discussed this bill a little bit on the way down that if it ever came to the point that the legislature would have to run at large, would he be willing too, and he said that he would, and Senator Syas has told me at that a...a...at this time